

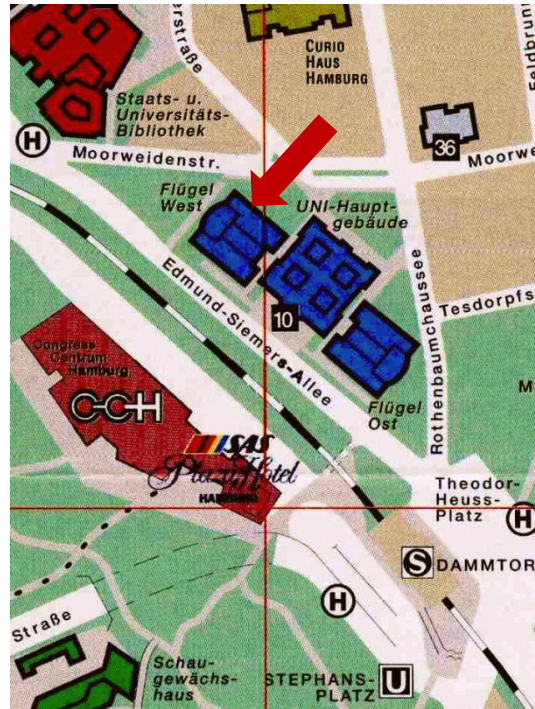
How do we know what Socialism looked like?

The future memory of Socialism will be substantially influenced by the range of images and artefacts of public (museums, monuments) and private (souvenirs, photographs, memorabilia) processes of remembering. While this canonization process constitutes part of contemporary cultures of memory, historians are researching the visual cultures of Socialist societies. Socialist visual cultures generated social and cultural codes that went far beyond the political iconographies. They defined central places for the negotiation of political and social relationships. The visual and pictorial conventions of the Soviet Union after 1945 are, alongside their transfer, the topic of the conference. How were the specific features of socialism constructed visually, and how were these markers diffused, transformed and negotiated in socialist countries?

The conference focuses on socialism as a central pathetic formula of the 20th century.

How socialism was visually defined and represented? How was it made recognizable?

We seek to gain insights into the relationships between the control and production of images, the consumption of images and mass culture, the interaction between 'high' and 'low', in addition to the management of cultural and ethnic diversity in the socialist societies of the 20th century and the visual cultures tied to ruling practices.



Conference team

Monica Rütters
Alexandra Köhring
Nathalie Keigel

The conference is open to the public on notification; please send a short mail to

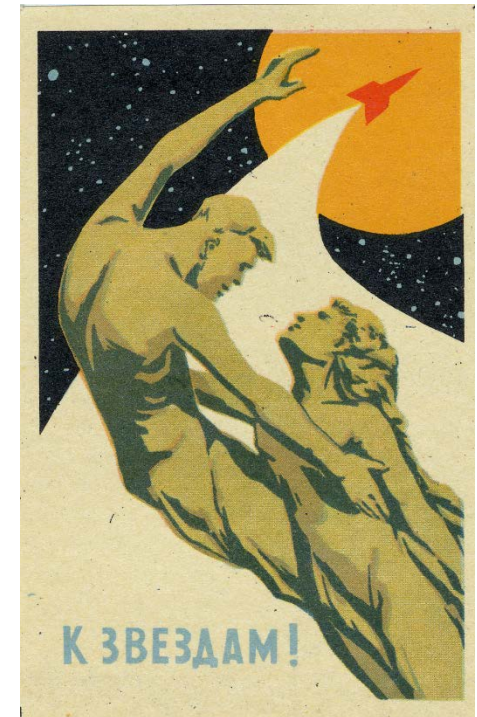
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Universität Hamburg

DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

Visual Cultures of Socialism



University of Hamburg
Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1

18th – 20th March 2015

Wednesday, 18th March

9:00 – 10:00 Opening of the Conference

Panel 1 The Socialist Persona

10:00 – 11:00

Klaudija Sabo, University of Vienna

Tito – Icon of the Yugoslav Confederation

*Sabine Stach, German Historical Institute,
Warsaw/University of Leipzig*

Personae non gratae or How to stage hidden heroes. Visual representations of Jan Palach

11:00 – 11:30

COFFEE BREAK

11:30 – 12:00

Beata Hock, GWZO Leipzig

Casualties of remembering communism: Women and their visual representation

12:00 – 12:30

Comment & Discussion

Monica Rüthers

12:30 – 14:00

LUNCH BREAK

Panel 2 Style and Material Culture

14:00 – 15:00

Kateryna Malaia, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Animating modernism: The affective history of the Soviet monumental 1960s

Sylvia Wölfel, TU Dresden

Technical Aesthetics: On the aspiration for designing a Socialist material culture

15:00 – 15:30

COFFEE BREAK

15:30 – 16:00

Elena Huber, University of Salzburg

Fashion, media, and the everyday life: On the visualisation of Soviet national styles in the 1950s and 1960s

16:00 – 16:30

Comment & Discussion

Esther Meier, Alexandra Köhring

16:45 – 18:45

CITY TOUR

19:00

DINNER

Marinehof

(Admiralsstraße 77)

Thursday, 19th March

Panel 3 Visual Mass Cultures

9:30 – 10:30

Paweł Miedzinski,

Institute of National Remembrance, Szczecin

Color photo in black&white: History of Central Photographic Agency

Carmen Scheide, University of St. Gallen

The visual construction of Soviet Ukraine

10:30 – 11:00

COFFEE BREAK

11:00 – 11:30

Matteo Bertelé, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

The Soviet illustrated postcard as an object of mass culture and ideological practices

11:30 – 12:00

Comment & Discussion

Nathalie Keigel

12:00 – 13:30

LUNCH BREAK

Panel 4 Failures and Irony

13:30 – 14:30

Christoph Lorke, WWU Münster

Thinking *the Social*: Social images of 'poverty' and the construction of 'self' and "otherness" in GDR society

Christine Götz, GWZO Leipzig

Merry pictures of the little folk: The cartoon magazine 'Veselye kartinki', or what's left from the Socialist 'children's world'

14:30 – 15:00

COFFEE BREAK

15:00 – 15:30

Micha Braun, University of Leipzig

Surrealistic mimicry: Practices of repetition and imitation in Eastern European performative arts of the 1970s and '80s

15:30 – 16:00

Comment & Discussion

Klara Pinerová

18:00

EVENING LECTURE

Nadine Siegert, University of Bayreuth

Images of nostalgic and utopian Socialism: visibility and counter-visibility in Angola & Mozambique

20:00

DINNER

UNIPARK

(Schlüterstraße 28)

Friday, 20th March

Panel 5

Folklore

9:30 – 10:30

Odeta Mikstaite, University of Greifswald

Performing the village: 'Authenticity' and rural aesthetics in the Soviet Lithuanian folklore revival

Anna G. Piotrowska, Jagiellonian University, Cracow

Embodying 'Socialist emotions' via image and music: The case of Polish state folk groups 'Mazowsze' and 'Śląsk

10:30 – 11:00

Comment & Discussion

Ekaterina Emeliantseva

11:00 – 11:30

COFFEE BREAK

11:30 – 12:00

Closing remarks – END